

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2, 15 and 17, and amend claims 1, 3-4, 12, 14, 16 and 18 as indicated among the following complete set of pending claims:

1. (Currently Amended; previously presented as claim 2) A combination cleaning and plunging tool comprising:

a handle having a first end and a second end;

a resilient plunger coupled to the first end of the handle, the plunger having a concave portion with an opening facing generally away from the second end of the handle, the plunger further having at least an extended position and a retracted position;

a brush coupled to at least one of the first end of the handle and to the plunger, the brush comprising a first brush portion coupled to an inside surface of the plunger in its extended position; and

wherein at least a majority of the brush is within the concave portion of the plunger when the plunger is in its extended position, and at least a portion of the brush is exposed from the concave portion of the plunger when the plunger is in its retracted position.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the brush comprises a second brush portion coupled to the first end of the handle and extending axially therefrom within the plunger in its extended position.

4. (Currently Amended) The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the first brush portion coupled to the inside surface of the plunger comprises a

plurality of brush bristles and a majority of the brush bristles are exposed from the concave portion of the plunger when the plunger is in its retracted position.

5. (Original) The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 1, wherein the brush comprises an elongated brush portion coupled to the first end of the handle and extending axially therefrom within the plunger in its extended position.

6. (Original) The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 1, further comprising a cross-member extending in at least one radial direction from the handle at or near the second end of the handle.

7. (Original) The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 6, wherein the cross-member extending in a radial direction from the handle comprises a rotatable knob thereon, the handle further comprising a sleeve rotatably mounted on the handle such that when a user grasps the rotatable sleeve with one hand and the cross-member knob with the other hand, the user can rotate the knob to cause the handle to rotate within the sleeve.

8. (Original) The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 1, further comprising a retractor coupled to the plunger and adjustably coupled to the handle, the retractor moveable between a first position in which the retractor moves the plunger into its extended position, and a second position in which the retractor moves the plunger into its retracted position.

9. (Original) The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 8, wherein the retractor is slidably mounted on the handle such that movement of the retractor from its first position to its second position moves the retractor transversely along the handle in the direction of the second end of the handle.

10. (Original) The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 9, the retractor further comprising a grip portion having an inner surface formed of a friction material such that when the grip portion is squeezed, the friction surface presses against the handle to restrict transverse movement of the handle within the retractor grip.

11. (Original) The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 10, the retractor further comprising a sleeve rotatably mounted on the handle such that the handle can rotate within the sleeve.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 1,
comprising:

a handle having a first end and a second end;

a resilient plunger coupled to the first end of the handle, the plunger having a concave portion with an opening facing generally away from the second end of the handle, the plunger further having at least an extended position and a retracted position;

a brush coupled to at least one of the first end of the handle and to the plunger; and

a retractor coupled to the plunger and adjustably coupled to the handle, the retractor further comprising a substantially cone-shaped member extending between the retractor and a circumferential surface of the plunger, wherein movement of the retractor from its first position to its second position draws the circumferential surface of the plunger toward the handle resulting in the plunger being placed in its retracted position with the portion of the brush exposed;

wherein at least a majority of the brush is within the concave portion of the plunger when the plunger is in its extended position, and at least a portion of the brush is exposed from the concave portion of the plunger when the plunger is in its retracted position.

13. (Original) The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 1, wherein the brush is a toilet brush and the plunger is a toilet plunger.

14. (Currently Amended; previously presented as claim 15) A combination cleaning and plunging tool comprising:

a handle having a first end and a second end;

a resilient toilet plunger coupled to the first end of the handle, the toilet plunger having a concave portion with an opening facing generally away from the second end of the handle, the toilet plunger further having at least an extended position and a retracted position;

a toilet brush coupled to at least one of the first end of the handle and to the toilet plunger, wherein the brush comprises a first brush portion coupled to an inside surface of the toilet plunger in its extended position; and

a retractor coupled to the toilet plunger and adjustably coupled to the handle, the retractor moveable between a first position in which the retractor moves the toilet plunger into its extended position, and a second position in which the retractor moves the toilet plunger into its retracted position;

wherein at least a majority of the toilet brush is within the concave portion of the toilet plunger when the toilet plunger is in its extended position, and at least a portion of the toilet brush is exposed from the concave portion of the toilet plunger when the toilet plunger is in its retracted position.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim [[15]] 14, wherein the brush comprises a second brush portion coupled to the first end of the handle and extending axially therefrom within the plunger in its extended position.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 17, comprising:

a handle having a first end and a second end and wherein the a cross-member extending in a radial direction from the handle at or near the second end of the handle comprises comprising a rotatable knob thereon, the handle further comprising a sleeve rotatably mounted on the handle such that when a user grasps the rotatable sleeve with one hand and the cross-member knob with the other hand, the user can rotate the knob to cause the handle to rotate within the sleeve;

a resilient toilet plunger coupled to the first end of the handle, the toilet plunger having a concave portion with an opening facing generally away from the second end of the handle, the toilet plunger further having at least an extended position and a retracted position;

a toilet brush coupled to at least one of the first end of the handle and to the toilet plunger; and

a retractor coupled to the toilet plunger and adjustably coupled to the handle, the retractor moveable between a first position in which the retractor moves the toilet plunger into its extended position, and a second position in which the retractor moves the toilet plunger into its retracted position;

wherein at least a majority of the toilet brush is within the concave portion of the toilet plunger when the toilet plunger is in its extended position, and at least a portion of the toilet brush is exposed from the concave portion of the toilet plunger when the toilet plunger is in its retracted position.

19. (Original) The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 14, wherein the retractor is slidably mounted on the handle such that movement of the retractor from its first position to its second position moves the retractor transversely along the handle in the direction of the second end of the handle.

20. (Original) The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 14, the retractor further comprising a sleeve rotatably mounted on the handle such that the handle can rotate within the sleeve.